

## RES12-079

Wilmington, Delaware  
November 15, 2012

#3759

Sponsor:

Council  
Member  
Wright

Co-Sponsors:

Council  
President  
Griffiths

Council  
Members  
Kelley  
Shabazz  
M. Brown

**WHEREAS**, the City of Wilmington, like many other urban centers across the country, has been plagued with youth violence; and

**WHEREAS**, ineffective “tough-on-crime” strategies such as “you do the adult crime, you do the adult time”, have had a negligible reduction in crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has the highest incarceration average rate of any nation in the world, with African Americans and Hispanics disproportionately impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), estimates that one in every three African American boys born in 2001 will end up incarcerated in their lifetime without appropriate intervention, a trajectory described as the “cradle-to-prison pipeline”; and

**WHEREAS**, there is overwhelming evidence to show that it is entirely feasible to move children from a cradle to prison pipeline to a cradle to college, or jobs pipeline; and

**WHEREAS**, all the credible research shows that a continuum of evidence-based prevention programs for youth identified as being at risk of involvement in delinquent behavior, and intervention for those already involved, will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost when compared to the avoided law enforcement and social welfare expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R.2721 The Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring Intervention, Support and Education (Youth PROMISE) Act encourages communities facing youth crime challenges to develop a comprehensive response to youth violence through coordinated prevention and intervention plans that include input from the school system, law enforcement, court services, social services, foster

care providers, health and mental health providers, and community and faith-based organizations, with potential funding for up to four years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth PROMISE Act currently has 81 co-sponsors, including Delaware's lone Congressman, John C. Carney, Jr. (D).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the City Council encourages U. S. Senators Thomas R. Carper and Chris Coons, to join Congressman Carney in support of The Youth PROMISE Act, and use not only their individual influence, but also the influence of any other Delawarean in the nation's capital, to ensure passage of the Act.

Passed by City Council,  
November 15, 2012

ATTEST: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of November, 2012

John R. Heinrich  
City Solicitor